

In re Patent Application of:

**MEARS ET AL.**

Serial No. **10/647,069**

Confirmation No. **9700**

Filed: **8/22/03**

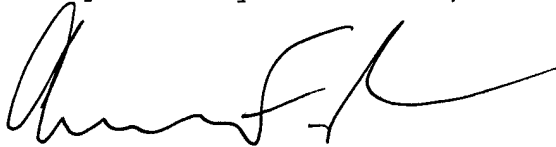
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**REMARKS**

Entry of the preliminary amendment is requested to correct minor inconsistencies in the specification and claims as originally filed.

Accordingly, after the Examiner completes a thorough examination and finds the claims patentable, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. Should the Examiner determine any minor informalities that need to be addressed, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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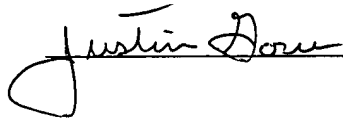
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop NON-FEE AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2004.

  
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